

Child, Youth and Family Services Branch

MANAGEMENT BULLETIN		No. 02-802
NUTRITION SERVICES DIVISION		
TO:	All Sponsors of Child Nutrition Programs	ISSUE DATE: May 2002
ATTENTION:	Food Services Directors	
SUBJECT:	Modifications of the "Vegetable Protein Products" Requirements	
REFERENCE:	Title 7 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 210, 220, 225, and 226	

This Management Bulletin provides the final rule from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) on the requirements for using "vegetable protein products" in the National School Lunch (NSLP), School Breakfast (SBP), Summer Food Service (SFSP), and Child and Adult Care Food Programs (CACFP). For the NSLP and SBP, these regulations apply only to meals planned under the food-based menu planning approaches. Changes to the rule include:

- Change in name from vegetable protein products to **alternate protein products (APP)**;
- Removal of the mandate that APP be only of plant origin;
- Termination of the fortification requirement;
- Discontinuance of the requirement limiting the total amount of APP to 30 percent of the meat/meat alternate; and
- Replacement of the test used to determine the protein quality from the Protein Efficiency Ratio test to the Protein Digestibility Corrected Amino Acid Score.

The goal of these changes is to provide the menu planner with more flexibility to incorporate APP products into menus with the traditional protein sources of meat, poultry, and seafood.

The new regulations allow APP to be used alone or in combination with other food ingredients. They may also be used in the dry form (non-hydrated), partially hydrated, or fully hydrated. Whether used alone or in combination, APP must now meet the following criteria when used in Child Nutrition Programs:

- All APP must be processed so that some portion of the non-protein constituents of the food is removed. The APP must be safe and suitable edible products produced from plant or animal sources.
- The biological quality of the protein in the APP must be equal to at least 80 percent that of casein, using a Protein Digestibility Corrected Amino Acid Score.
- The APP must contain at least 18 percent protein by weight when fully hydrated or formulated.
- Manufacturers supplying an APP to participating schools or institutions must provide documentation that the product meets the criteria in Appendix A of Title 7, Code of Federal Regulations Parts 210, 220, 225, and 226, as summarized in this Management Bulletin.
- Manufacturers must provide information on the percent protein contained in the dry APP and on the product as prepared.
- For an APP mix, manufacturers must provide information on:
 - a) The amount by weight of dry APP product in the package;
 - b) Hydration instructions; and
 - c) Instructions on how to combine the mix with meat or other meat alternates.

Attached is a copy of the federal register (Attachment A) and a set of questions and answers on APP (Attachment B). The meal pattern charts throughout the federal register dated March 9, 2000, were originally incorrect; the attached copy of the Federal Register's final rule has been corrected to reflect the accurate serving sizes.

If you have additional questions, please contact your Nutrition Services Division Representative directly or Kathy Mackey, Nutrition Education Specialist at (916) 324-0578 or (800) 952-5609.

Marilyn Briggs, Director
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(2) Attachments